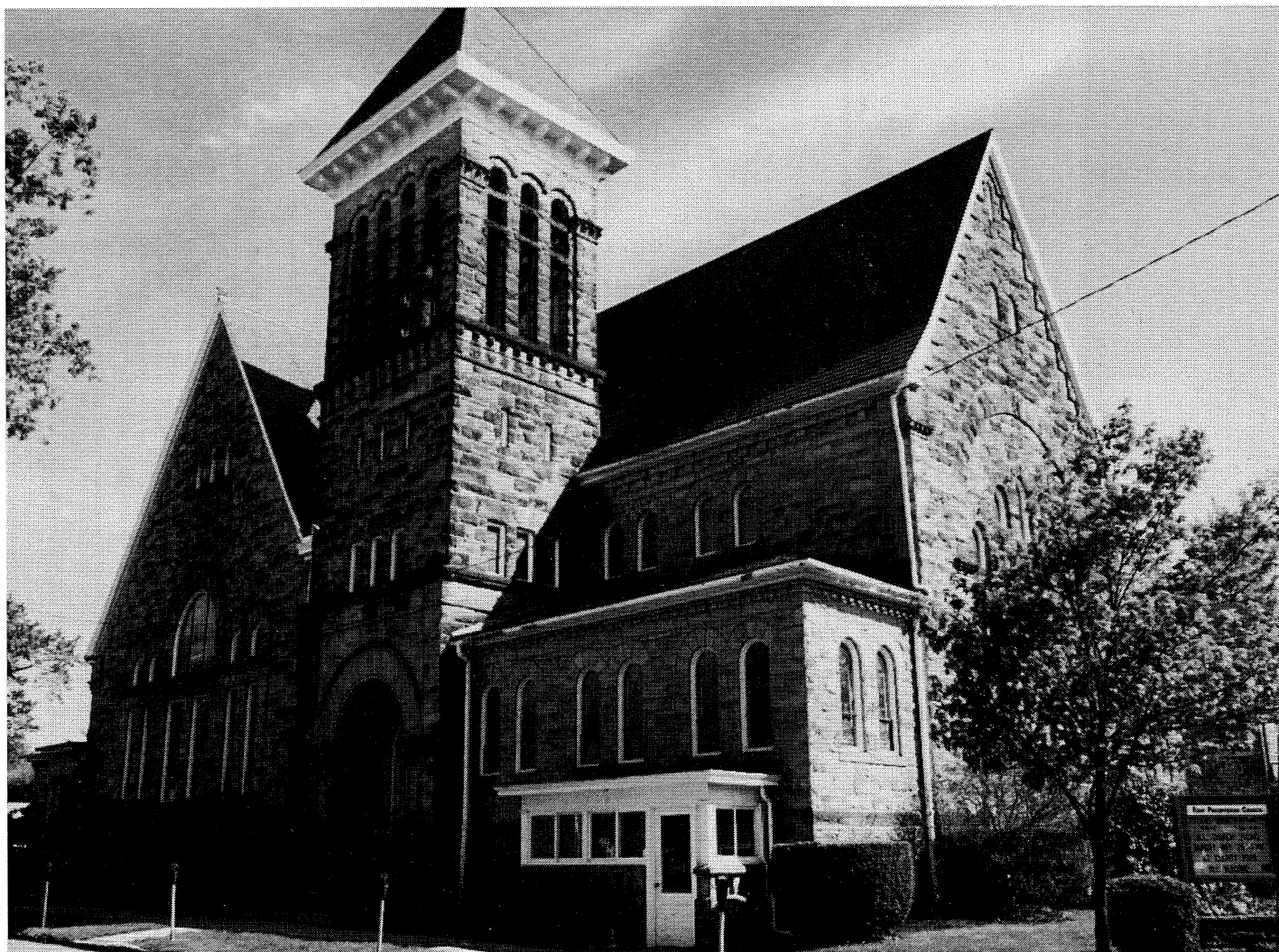


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Third Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
June 13, 2021*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214
814-226-8145
churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org
www.clarionfirstpresby.org



We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

THE SESSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE WEARING OF MASKS FOR YOUR PERSONAL PROTECTION
AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS WITH WHOM YOU ARE WORSHIPPING

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Michelle Deitz

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Prelude

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Call to Worship

The God we worship is the giver of life:

the one who makes the dry tree green and grows a forest from the smallest seed.

The God we worship is the giver of life:

the One who forms us, names us, loves us, and teaches us to share our lives with the world.

Let us worship the Giver of Life.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ Hymn No. 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

Text: Green, 1970, alt.

Music: Welsh melody, c. 1784

Call to Confession

God will not count our sins against us, longing instead for us to be reconciled. We come before God, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.

Prayer of Confession

When our actions are not consistent with the truth of your gospel,

forgive us, Lord. Cleanse us and free us.

When our lives do not proclaim the power of your love,

compel us, Lord. Free us and forgive us.

When our minds are full of self-condemnation, with no room for your grace,

revive us Lord. Forgive us and compel us.

For our lives are rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ,

and through Christ's love alone we are reconciled to you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

We are ambassadors for Christ, for God has reconciled us through him! Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the
Holy Ghost, as it was in
the beginning is now and
ever shall be, world
without end. Amen,
Amen

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Tamalyn Goble

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24, Mark 4:30-32

(NRSV)

²² Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It

is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, we walk by faith and not by sight. So guide our steps in your Word today that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are kept from falling and find our way through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Message

Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.

“Growing A Tree”

Prayer for Courage

✦ Hymn No. 531

Seed, Scattered and Sown

Text: Feiten, 1987

Music: Feiten, 1987; arr. Gunnison and Miller, alt.

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

(Hammered Dulcimer: Phyllis Howard)

Ludwig van Beethoven

✦ Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers for the People and The Lord's Prayer

✦ Hymn No. 714

God of the Fertile Fields

Text: Harkness, 1955, alt.

Music: Giardini, 1769 alt.

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Grand March

William Stickles

DOXOLOGY

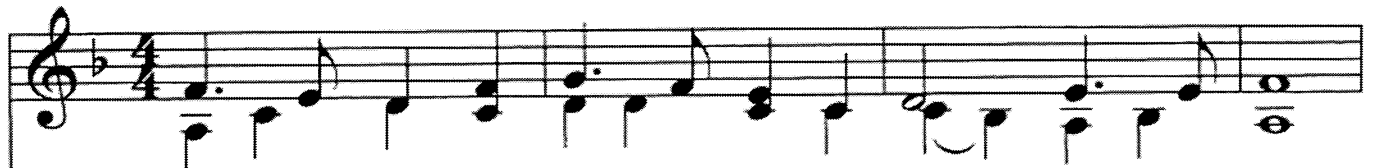
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

For the Fruit of All Creation


36




1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



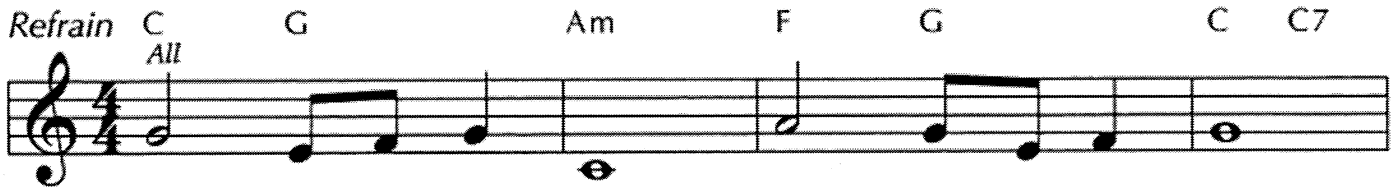
For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Seed, Scattered and Sown

531



Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;



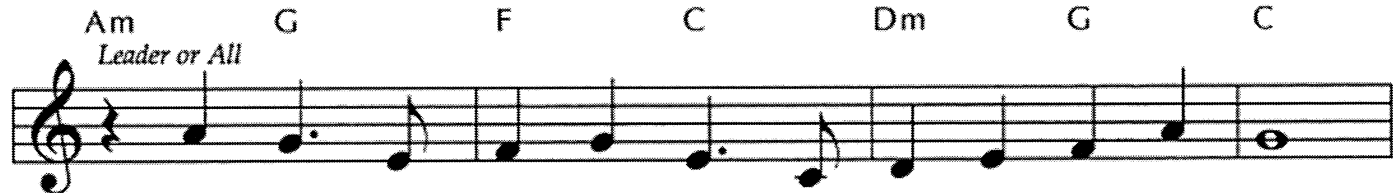
bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the liv - ing bread of God.



Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is



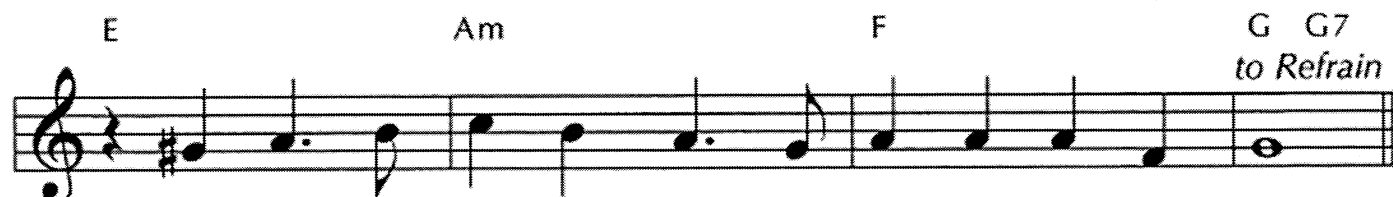
shared by all, the liv - ing cup, the liv - ing bread of God.



1 Is not the bread we break a shar - ing in our Lord?

2 The seed which falls on rock will with - er and will die.

3 As wheat up - on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,



Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out - poured?

The seed with - in good ground will flow - er and have life.

so may the church of God be gath-ered in - to one.

God of the Fertile Fields

714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, June 14

6:00 p.m. Worship Team, Zoom

Tuesday, June 15

6:00 p.m. Property Team

7:00 p.m. Session, Zoom

Wednesday, June 16

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, Social Hall

Thursday, June 17

6:30 p.m. CE Team, Ministry Central

Sunday, June 20

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast WWCH 1300AM, 94.1 FM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE WEARING OF MASKS FOR YOUR PERSONAL PROTECTION AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS WITH WHOM YOU ARE WORSHIPPING.

Communion will be held this morning. We will still use the individual, pre-packaged items. If you arrived before they were available in the Ramp Room, please pick yours up before worship starts.

The Sharing Cupboard item for June is a two-pack of paper towels. As the Deacons continue to use the Sharing Cupboard ministry to compliment the Food Bag Distribution, this will need to be in the church today or dropped in Ministry Central on Monday. The Food Bag Distribution for June is Thursday, June 17th.

Our next Food Bag Distribution is Thursday, June 17, 2:00-4:00 p.m. or all bags are gone. Ongoing thanks to all who contribute their time and/or money to make this happen! It is amazing what we can do for our community together!

Trinity Point Church of God 10th Annual Golf Scramble, July 31, 2021. Start time is 2:30 p.m. This is a four-person scramble at Hi-Level Golf Course. It is \$60/person or \$240/team. Price includes greens fees, cart, refreshments, and meal. There will be prizes for: lowest score, skill games, and door prizes. For more information, please call 814-761-6314. You can register online at www.trinitypointchurchofgod.org

Youth Connection is looking for mentors, will you be one? Youth Connection is a local mentoring program serving Venango, Forest, Clarion, and Eastern Crawford Counties. Just about anyone can be a mentor. The main requirement is a willingness to be a caring, consistent, and safe role model with a desire to share a friendship with a local youth. It only takes a few hours a month to make a

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

positive change in a youth's life. You can share the kinds of activities you already enjoy and experience the joys of seeing a world of possibility open up through a youth's eyes. You can help shape their future for the better and have a lot of fun doing it! Spending time with a mentor can help youth develop skills to manage everyday challenges while growing up; explore new interests; gain confidence in themselves; and develop an enhanced capacity to care for others. For more information on how to get involved with the Youth Connection Program, contact Program Director Jessica Walters at (814) 676-9940, ext. 1228 or via email at jwalters@fscas.org.

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Frederick W. "Fred" Foster who was born on January 21, 1952, joined our church May 21, 1991, and entered the church triumphant on June 8, 2021.

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Showers, Fred Port, Jim Young, Dorothy Jean Foreman, Herb & Dee Thrush, Mary McCamant, Pat McConnell, Pauline Henry, and, Mary Swanger,.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley McKinley's daughter, Charlotte Hartman and nephew, Kenneth Daughtery Jr.; John McKinley's great-nephew, David Mahle; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; former treasurer, Jennifer Hurrelbrink; Carolyn McFarland's brother and his wife, Rick and Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's uncle, Charles Gamble; Ellen DiBernardo's friend, Barbara Frampton; Pastor Paul's daughter, Helen Abell; Bill and Bonnie Champion's sister-in-law, Norma Stahlman Champion, and Linda Deitz, sister to Jeff Deitz.
- *And all of those serving in the US Military* including members and friends of our own faith family.

Caring Caller member of the week: Please remember Ted Mitrosky, 100 Bond Drive, Clarion, PA 16214-2108

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time. Then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular needs, please feel free to contact Pastor Paul Abell at the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. You may also email him at pastorpaul@clarionpresyb.org.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 1300AM and 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Interim Pastor: Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>
Bobbie Cumo	Joe Burns	John Joy
Jeff Kapp	Robin Cable	Bert Louder
Elaine Matticks	Michelle Deitz	Jim McConnell
Marissa Widmer	Cindy Stants	

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>
Doug Bills	Tamalyn Goble	Suellen Gourley
Pam Reid	Mike Hetrick	Cindy Kapp
Dana Solida	Carolyn McFarland	Norma Kooman
Amy Widmer	Debra Owens	

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor:	Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
Lector:	Michelle Deitz
Time with Children:	Tamalyn Goble
Director of Music:	Bonnie Champion
Organist:	Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer:	Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer:	Dan Willy
Greeter and Ushers:	Norma Kooman and Amy Widmer

Flowers today are in memory of Richard & Vesta Moore, Rick McFarland.

Special thanks to Phyllis Howard for presenting the Prelude and Offertory music this week.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 13

10:00 a.m. Worship
 — Communion

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

6/7/2021

Envelope Contributions	\$3,070.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$73.50</u>
Total Contributions	\$3,143.50
Food Bag Donations	\$450.00
Parking Permit	\$80.00
Fulton Scholarship Donation	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total Deposit	\$3,723.50

NOTES

Feel free to use this space to take notes on the sermon, the service or for any personal reminders that may help you in your walk with God this week

JUNE 13, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The reign of God will not be stopped.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Living by faith
Wednesday	Psalms 107:4-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Thursday	Acts 5:27-42	The apostles are persecuted
Friday	Zachariah 8:1-17	God's promises to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	A song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." Mark 4:31-32 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, in Christ Jesus we thank you that by day and by night your reign of steadfast love and faithfulness will not be stopped. (Psalm 92:1-2)

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, for the seed that becomes the plant that supplies the food that shows your love, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God bless you now and always. (Psalm 92:2)



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JUNE 13, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

As Rain from the Clouds

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe your experience with gardening and planting seeds.
- Think or talk about a time you have seen an act of kindness make a big difference in someone's life.
- Jesus describes the reign of God through images of tiny seeds and growth. In what way is this a message about God's kingdom?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

With Jesus' depiction of the kingdom of God, one would expect comparisons to something like spectacular cedar trees of Lebanon (Ezekiel 17:22 and Psalm 92:12) or some other vision of grandeur. Jesus chooses something more akin to a weed, a mustard bush that is prolific in Judea. It's an example that likely made his hearers chuckle, not gasp with indescribable awe; it's another example of getting people to see differently. Just as relentless as mustard bushes or weeds are, God's reign will not be deterred. It is like the seed planted that grows and grows without human intervention. As the Gospel of Mark gets underway, the message is that the kingdom is coming. The kingdom is viewed through surprising, even humorous comparisons. It will not be stopped, not by evil, not by scribes, not by disciples who fail again and again. Evil will be overcome, voices of the kingdom will be heard, and imperfect followers will keep pointing to Christ's victory over sin and death. How do you help others see the kingdom of God more clearly?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to see and believe with the eyes of faith that your reign will win the day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

The smallest of seeds planted can become the largest of plants. Likewise, the smallest acts of kindness can grow to make a very large difference in someone's life. Think of someone who is not so visible or lonely and reach out to them. In what way does reaching out to them grow the kingdom of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Use a leafless branch and cut out leaf shapes. During devotion time this week, think or talk about ways you have seen and felt God at work in the world. Write down those ways on leaves and add them to the branch. Praise and thank God each time you add leaves by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for caring for us. May your presence in our lives help us to continue to grow and care for others, even in ways we may not see or understand. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

